Western Allies May Yet Be First to Get to Berlin

Analysis of the News by Mackenzie

Editorial Comment Written Today and Moved by Telegraph

By DEWITT MACKENZIE
Associated Press War Analyst

The distinctly fast determined race that is on between the Muscovites and the Anglo-Americans to see which the Russians seemed to have the edge no longer than a month ago has taken on a new aspect since the start of the sweeping victories in the Rhineland.

In short, General Eisenhower's command has a fighting chance to get there first. Even so, don't get me wrong! Betting odds certainly are against us on the Red Screen, especially as they're only thirty miles as the crow flies from the metropolis while their colleagues are about twice as far away. Admittedly it would be a mighty close thing if the western allies have a chance to get there at about the same time as the Russians.

The point is that this is an objective which may well depend on the breaks. The Soviet troops for their drive against fierce opposition in the Oder River area southeast of Berlin, for the Nazis are reported to have concentrated the cream of the crack armored divisions and motorized mobile unit. As regards the western Allies, they're not in the least back in the impressive fighting formation of old.

The Russian assault is generally regarded to mean a drive to the Oder front under Field Marshal Montgomery's command. While military experts agree that Montgomery's legions, they're keeping close watch on the situation depending on the relative speed between the great Nazi industrial centers and the Oder-Berlin. That's open country and well adapted to rapid tank maneuvers and fast mechanized warfare, and it's the main gateway to Berlin.

Should Montgomery's forces continue enough to hit this broad highway quickly, he might make a fast passage to the capital. The important question is the nature of the resistance which the enemy can offer east of the Rhine. They are guarding that corridor to northern Germany with all they still have in strength, although there are forces to the south on the long front have been regrouped and disorganized. Major E. W. Ingram, military expert of the London Herald, says the six Nazi armies in the west are ripe for the kill.

So that may be, we must expect a fight. In this connection it is significant that the famous Field Marshal Rundstedt, who has been such a determined stand in Italy, has been put in charge of the western front in place of Field Marshal Von Rundstedt. The latter has dropped out of sight suddenly. Some observers think it's significant that the famous Field Marshal Kesselring, who has made such a determined stand in Italy, has been put in command

"STRICTLY PRIVATE"

MODEST MAIDENS

DEAR MOM:
I HOPE YOU'LL DON'T GET A IDEA THAT MY BEING A 1ST CLASS PRIVATE MEANS I'M JUST A BEGINNER. HERE AT THE INFANTRY SCHOOL I WEAR THE SAME NO DATHED LIKE THE WAY
YOUR SON
Pfc. Stanley Stein

U.S. ARMY
PT. BENNING, GA.

Side Glances — By Galbraith

"Jim says he wants us to spend part of his home allotment to buy a large four-poster bed with three mattresses!"

Funny Business — By Hershberger

Blondie — Chic Young

BLONDIE: WELL, YOU BRING ME SOME CAKE AND A GLASS OF MILK, OR YOU COME UP!

IT'S WONDERFUL TO WAIT ON YOU FROM MORNING TIL NIGHT!

WHERE'S MY CAKE AND MILK?

WHY, I DIDN'T HEAR YOU ASK FOR ANY!

ON YOUR WAY UP, WILL YOU BRING ME A PIECE OF CAKE TOO?

Walt Disney

"If the police station gets results that way maybe I will too."

Donald Duck — By Walt Disney

Freckles — By Merrill Blosser

BOSSY! I'VE GOT SOMETHING STEALIN' YOUR MILK!

NOW I'M END ON THE FARM!

Out Our Way — By J. R. Williams

"He's on furlough!"

Scorchy Smith — By Frank Robbins

HI, SCORCH! I-ERR-A SLEW FOOTPRINTS—LEFTS AND RIGHTS—GOES IN HERE—NO COMIN' OUT!

WAIT—I'LL BE WITH YOU IN A MINUTE!

Our Boarding House — By Major Hoople

I NEVER MISSED A STEP—I'S TEE SEE PUM—DON'T FENCE ME OUT—17

FOILED AGAIN—GR-RR

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NOW, DEWEY!

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THIS DYNAMITE WILL STOP THE SAILOR—HERE WE GO—

BOOM

Alley Oop — By V. T. Hamlin

FIELD HEADQUARTERS

Boots — By Edgar Martin

WELL, WELL! WITH LOTSA CORN!

H-WALDO! HOW YOUVE GROWN!

AND THIS IS OL' STEVE!

HIYUH, BOY!

Oaky Doaks — By Ralph Dunagin

BE EIGHE'S TROUBLE WITH THAT OUTA FUEL—AN' MILES UP!

SPUTTER

PUFF

PUFF

WEBBE WE BETTER GO DOWN!

WE'RE STARTIN' NOW!!!

WOW! WE'RE GOING TOO F-FAST!!

Red Ryder — By Fred Harman

COUNTY JAIL

COUNTY JAIL

WAKE UP! WAKE UP!

HELP! HELP!

BOOM! BOOM! BOOM!

THE WATERS ARE RECEDING! COME! YOU TO SHOW ELI HOW TO BAG DINOSAURS!

Honey — By Walt Brenner

THAT'S MY HONEY! SHE'S GOT A HEART OF GOLD!

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Friday, March 23, 1945

...e Year, But FBI Gets Its Man

More than a year ago Cliff Stewart, of the U. S. barbershop cabinet, got a check for a stranger. The check was hot—and so was W. M. Brumley, the issuer.

Mr. Stewart turned the check over to Prosecuting Attorney Lyle Brown. Looking over the evidence, Mr. Brown saw an $18 item dated January 22, 1944, drawn by J. E. Barrett on a bank at Clarksville, Ark., payable to A. H. Dailey. It was Dailey who got the haircut and left the check with Stewart, saying he was a Southwestern Proving Ground employe freshly come to our city.

Prosecutor Brown could find nothing about either Barrett or Dailey. Finally he turned the check over to the newly-organized Bad Check Division of the FBI. The FBI got results — in a way. It didn't get Brummett & Stewart their $18 back, but—

This morning Prosecutor Brown was informed by the FBI it has located Dailey. As for Barrett, . . . "he is sly." Dailey is a forger. He signed both names—but Dailey is his real one; and he is in the Texas penitentiary serving a term for forgery.

Prosecutor Brown sent to Huntsville for Dailey's picture, and Mr. Stewart identifies it Dailey will be returned here for further prosecution after completing his Texas sentence.

Extra Hour Rejected by Night Clubs

New York, March 22 —(AP)—New York City's major night clubs today spurned Mayor F. H. LaGuardia's 1 a.m. curfew for the government-ordered midnight shutdown and LaGuardia said that was all right with him.

"The demands of the Allied food and entertainment industries of Greater New York, comprising the leading cabarets and restaurants to ignore the 'hour of tolerance,' brought this retort from the mayor:

"It's quite all right with me, I don't care how early they close."

Return of the night clubs to the midnight deadline was interpreted as a result of the War and Navy Department directives clamping a rigid 12 o'clock curfew on all uniformed personnel and the fear of possible government sanctions.

But, the mayor, his one-man rebellion against War Mobilizer Jame Byrnes' apparently headed for a holow victory, protested a bit over his original all-out curfew extension by saying:

"As long as they stop their entertainment at 12 they are not breaking the local law."

New York, March 22 —(AP)—Night club and restaurant proprietors, preparing against their three-day star billing in the New York City vs the nation curfew clash, have announced they will adhere to the midnight closing.

The Allied Food and Entertainment Industries of Great New York said its members would ignore the "extra hour of tolerance" granted by Mayor La Guardia.

Meanwhile, the Blue network announced the mayor would defend his 1 a.m. closing in a broadcast over the network from 7 to 7:15 p.m. (EWT) today. His topic: "Why the one-hour tolerance for New York City."

Many night clubs and hotels, not members of the association, also announced they would return to the midnight curfew "their decision left the mayor — so far as the curfew was concerned — in the position of a general without troops.

"I know we're letting the mayor down," said Billy Rose, owner of the Diamond Horseshoe and president of the association, "but we're forced to do this. My allegiance to my country goes beyond my allegiance to the mayor."

Arthur Garfield Hays, counsel for the association, said: "Mayor LaGuardia has shown sound leadership in his endeavor to make the curfew conform to conditions in a large metropolis. Whatever may be the government's objectives, he knows how they best can be obtained here."

However, it looks to us as though somebody in Washington is trying to make a political issue of this and we are not willing to take a position that might embarrass the mayor, who has been trying to help our situation. Nor are we inclined to serve civilians when service is denied to men in uniform."

Bronx Borough President James J. Lyons said, however, that the board of estimate today to approve a resolution calling for a 1 a.m. curfew. The city council previously had passed an ordinance establishing a midnight curfew.

REMAGEN BRIDGE FALLS INTO RHINE RIVER—First Army medics stand by on the collapsed span of the Remagen railroad bridge, which fell at 1515 hours, 17 March, 1945, ready to aid men being rescued from the wreckage below. The center span of the bridge collapsed while undergoing repairs. (Signal Corps Radiotelephoto from NEA Telephoto).

Cheers, Jeers Greet British 'Frisco Envoys

London, March 22 —(AP)— Hot Words, cheers and jeers were exchanged in Commons today after Prime Minister Churchill had announced names of seven men and two women who will represent Britain at the Golden Gate United Nations security conference.

Laborite Emmanuel Shinwell accused the government of stacking the delegation with Conservatives.

Barley heard above the cheers and counter-cheers, Churchill roared back that Shinwell "has done everything in his power to break up this government" and hopes to gain after its dissolution what he could never gain while national affairs predominated in the public minds.

Obviously irritated by Shinwell's accusation, he added: "Any fairminded man would say that the Labor party had a fair representation."

"Not from you," shouted Shinwell.

Churchill leaned forward, his chin lifted and shot back: "It is the person responsible for nominating this delegation, and they (labor) have a fair representation in this delegation."

Earlier, Moelyn Hughes, a Laborite, had asked if there was any reason why Clement Attlee, Lord president of the council and labor leader, should not head the labor delegation, instead of Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden.

Churchill said normal procedure was for the foreign secretary to lead such missions, and explained that Attlee's title of deputy prime minister was a courtesy title "which has no constitutional authority at the present time."

Besides Eden and Attlee, Churchill named these members of the delegation:

Lord Cranborne, dominions secretary, and Lord Halifax, British ambassador to Washington.

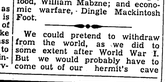
The delegation also will include five parliamentary secretaries—labor, George Tomlinson; home secretary, Miss Ellen Wilkinson; health, Miss Florence Horsbrough; Lt. William Mabane; and economic warfare, Dingle Mackintosh Foot.

We could pretend to withdraw from the world, as we did to some extent after World War I. But we would probably have to come out of our hermit's cave

Jewelry for Everyone

Bracelets

Gold Filled With Stones



We have a large collection of . . .

Lapel Pins, Rings, Lockets, also Pins

and Stunning Earrings to Match.

Stewart's Jewelry Store

First National Bank Bldg.

Phone 474

Distribution Key to Food Difficulties

(Third of Four Articles)

By DVID A. MARTIN

Associated Press Farm Writer

Washington, March 22 — (AP) — Government control of foods in wartime involves the regulation of distribution as well as production. Shortages of the past and present often reflect an uneven distribution.

Rationing is designed to distribute supplies evenly. But there are loopholes as well as violations which enable some consumers to get more than their share.

Even now, when complaints of shortage of meats are rampant, these cases are well filled in some areas. Often in the same city, one store will have more meat per customer than another.

Food supplies tend to remain close to the source of production. Normally, it is only when nearby consumers get all they want that supplies move out to areas of lesser production.

This has been true especially in the case of meats and butter, the great bulk of which are produced and processed in the midwest.

Because of this — and some black marketing — there has been a tendency for a largely disproportionate portion of the hogs and beef cattle to be bought and slaughtered by small, local plants serving only a limited areas. As a consequence, the larger packing plants have normally supply the more distant areas have been getting a smaller portion of the meat animals.

Aggravating the bad distribution problem civilians has been the fact that the government has had to depend very largely upon the bigger plants to supply the army and lend-lease and to provide foreign relief. These plants have been forced to cut down on supplies moving to their civilian customers.

The government from time to time has tightened regulations designed to channel more meat animals into some of the larger plants, but those moves have not been completely successful. Officials say that the only way to obtain an even distribution would be to place a policeman on every livestock farm, in every slaughter plant and in every retail store.

Often complaints revolve around an insufficient supply of a particular cut or type of meat. For example, complaints are being made in the South of a shortage of pork, highly desired by some consumers there. Much of this type of meat, which the large packers would normally ship to the South, is filling lend-lease requirements for Russia.

Another cause of maldistribution is an understandable attempt on the part of some processors to favor their better customers. It is their desire to hold these customers for peacetime markets. Consequently transportation difficulties cause temporary local shortages.

Government distribution policies for sugar, as well as a wartime decline in the refining industry, have affected supplies of this commodity. Last year, for example, they allowed civilians larger rations, principally for canning. It also increased allowances to industrial users, such as soft-drink makers, bakers and candy makers.

These increased allowances, mainly opposed by some government authorities, had the effect of largely depleting sugar reserves. The action in granting larger rations was prompted largely by the belief that the war in Europe was about over.

Now food officials regret their 1944 liberality; they since have reduced allowances for both civilians and industrial users.

Looking backward, it is easy to see how that rationing could have been used more effectively in 1944 to make supplies of present shortage items last longer.

Meats, lard, shortening, other fats (except butter) and some canned foods were taken off the ration list in the spring. They were not returned until late in December, after it became apparent that the war would continue through 1945. When they finally were restored to rationing, the action was not taken without an inter-agency

section.

Other imperial forces were reported making steady progress toward the Burmese oil fields 40 miles southwest of Mandalay.

Eighty miles northeast of Mandalay Chinese troops consolidated their mopping up operations against by-passed Japanese units in the Hsipaw area, and a strong British column was reported advancing on Hsipaw from Mogok, 30 miles to the northwest.

Meat Subsidy Hiked to Aid U.S. Supply

By ANN HICKS

Washington, March 22 —(UP)— government today sought to alleviate the meat shortage by increasing the subsidy to cattle slaughterers. The increase will be up to 50 cents a hundred pounds.

The plan was announced by Price Administrator Chester Bowles before the Senate Banking committee after Bowles had spent two days before the committee defending his agency's meat price policies against heated criticism of packers and Republican senators. The critics said packers were going broke.

The additional subsidy will be based on the amounts paid by slaughterers for live cattle. It will be computed on the basis of the amount paid by the individual slaughterer in excess of the "floor" established for live cattle prices, and will reach the maximum of 50 cents a hundredweight when the slaughterer pays ceiling — top permissible — prices for cattle.

Spokesmen for meat slaughters and packers told the committee they are losing money under present OPA policies and regulations on handling of both beef and pork. But Bowles said he thought the new subsidy "will put packers in a reasonably good position."

But Arthur L. Winn of the national independent meat packers' association disputed that contention.

"As long as we would pay the ceiling price we would get the 50 cent subsidy — and continue to lose money," he said.

Winn told the committee that there was a record cattle population on the nation's ranges but that OPA price regulations were preventing their slaughter. He said an increase in the beef supply would be a "great help" in overcoming the pork shortage, but that this was not possible under present regulations.

again anyhow, along about 1789D, and fight another war. And next time we would be the first to be attacked.

To Vacate Cotton Warehouse Claimed for War Purposes

Little Rock, March 22 —(AP)— Immediate removal of cotton stored in the federal compress and warehouse building at Pine Bluff in compliance with a March 12 court decree granting government possession of the warehouse for manufacture of ammunition containers is sought in a petition now before the U. S. district court.

The petition of the government was filed yesterday by U. S. District Attorney Sam Rorex in an attempt to clear up a situation which might curtail plans for the Pine Bluff plant. The Commodity Credit Corporation had refused to approve new storage facilities for the cotton, Pine Bluff Mayor Emmett Sanders said yesterday.

We, the Women

Work Party Is More Fun Than Bridge

By RUTH MILLETT

The women around the bridge table were comparing notes on what they should have been doing at home, instead of playing cards for a whole afternoon.

But they all agreed they still belonged to their bridge clubs even when they couldn't afford the time —because they simply had to get out and talk to people once in a while.

There are a lot of women in the same boat. They don't like to give up the social clubs they used to have for because they still like to get out and see their friends—and yet they aren't really comfortable spending whole afternoons in which they accomplish nothing. And when they have so much to do at home.

Why wouldn't it be a good idea for women like that to start having some over-all parties, instead of bridge parties? Instead of meeting at Mrs. Jones' for a fancy luncheon and bridge, why not meet for a picnic meal and planting Mrs. Jones garden?

WORK IS FUN

When it's Mrs. Smith's turn to entertain she may want help with the family mending, with painting the kitchen, or with refinishing an old piece of furniture.

British Push to South of Mandalay

Calcutta, March 22 —(UP)— British Imperial troops fought their way today into the burning Japanese stronghold of Myingyaun, 54 miles southwest of Mandalay, against fierce enemy opposition.

A communique said the British have established firmly in the southern part of the town and are tilling slowly into the enemy - held

But whatever the job —it would not seem like real work if it were done to the tune of laughter and gossip and the swapping of ideas.

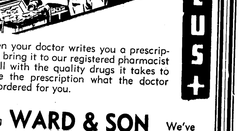
And the women could enjoy getting together without being bothered by the nagging thought that they were wasting hours they had no business wasting.

Just think how much could be accomplished in the time it takes to eight or twelve women to play three rubbers of bridge.

YEARS of EXPERIENCE

In Filling Prescriptions

+PLUS+



When your doctor writes you a prescription, bring it to our registered pharmacist to fill with the quality drugs it takes to make the prescription what the doctor has ordered for you.

The Leading Druggist WARD & SON Phone 62 We've Got It

TRAPPED MEN RESCUED FROM RHINE BRIDGE—Rescue of a 1st Army engineer trapped in the Rhine River waters (foreground) and placed him on the litter. The twisted girders seen are all that remain of the center span. (Signal Corps Radiotelephoto from NEA Telephoto).

Washington

By JACK STINNETT

The Association of American railroads doesn't like it. A great many of the members of that division of the Army Service Forces known as railway operating battalions don't like it either.

I mean the reflection on the Transportation Corps that has cropped up over here because of the publicity given those black marketing court martial in France. Many of the men convicted of theft of army supplies for sale at fabulous prices in the black markets came from one of the railway operating battalions.

They are justified in not liking it. The thievery of needed supplies and even such morale supplies as cigarettes and candy is a shameful as well as a criminal thing. In some cases, as in the case of thefts of vitally needed gasoline, it could even be a murderous thing.

But to condemn the army as a whole or any corps in it for the activities of this criminal element is very wrong.

Army officials in France and here have pointed this out. FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover has pointed this out, explaining on several occasions that he isn't nearly as worred about the comparatively small criminal element in the army as he is in the army of possibly juvenile delinquents growing up here at home.

The point that both here and in France the railway operating battalions have been doing a job on the whole an excellent job in France and Belgium, fighting the war in their way just as hard as the boys up at the front.

One such report, now in the railroad association files, for example, is from Capt. G. O. Larmer, of the 725th Railway Operating Battalion.

"Originally," he reported, "a stretch of double track lines of railroad was taken over as we continued to improve and became the best railroad in the European theater, we were given the territory formerly operated by another battalion of the army now have double track line for 120 miles and two major terminals.

"In Stars and Stripes in February," Captain Larmer's captain, "it was reported that the 725th moved an estimated 833,498 long tons of supplies for 1,000 miles of rail during the four months ending Dec. 21. This tonnage figure is misleading in each instance the main lines were cleared in record time. In one wreck nine cars of ammunition and powder were blown up, but in the same wreck, 21 cars were salvaged under hazardous conditions. It is possible that the men involved in that salvage will be cited.

"We do keep 'em rolling."

There is much more to the captain's report. The 753rd is the Union Pacific Battalion," most of the men having worked on that line before the war. The captain takes pardonable pride not only in the way they have "kept 'em rolling" but in the fact that his battalion also has had excellent relations with the French civilians.

There's no doubt about it. The men who are willing to delay victory or forget their humanitarian interests are a very, very small minority in this man's army.

Barbs

Easter seals are quoted at prewar prices—and are trained to do wonders.

All Jap schools are to be closed so students can be linked with the war effort. Now, if they can just forget all they've been taught.

Judging from some of the meat we've had lately the butcher must have been given a bum steer.

The midnight-closing pass word for heavy imbibers is "Hip, hip!"

A-shortage of shoes is predicted for 1946. There will be nothing new in the gals who buy for looks instead of comfort.

The U. S. Maritime Service training station at Sheepshead Bay, Brooklyn, had 60,000 graduates in two years.

How To Relieve Bronchitis

Creomulsion relieves promptly because it goes right to the seat of the trouble to help loosen and expel tough, stubborn phlegm, and aid nature to soothe and heal raw, tender, inflamed bronchial membranes. Tell your druggist to sell you a bottle of Creomulsion with the understanding you must like the way it quickly relieves the cough or you are to have your money back.

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109 South Main St. Next to Gosnell's Store

Hope, Arkansas

Hope Star

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(AP)—Means Associated Press (NEA)—Means Newspaper Enterprise Ass'n.

WEATHER FORECAST

Arkansas: Considerable cloudiness, scattered showers and thunderstorms this afternoon, tonight, and in east portion Sunday; cooler Sunday and in west portion tonight. Fresh to strong winds.

Our Daily Bread

Sliced Thin by The Editor

Alex. H. Washburn

Senate Rejects Aubrey Williams for REA Post

You will naturally expect this correspondent to applaud the senate's action yesterday in rejecting the [illegible] Williams [illegible] in prt tacked wrangler of utterly unfitted, both by experience and temperament, to head REA—a vitally important business wing of the federal government.

Williams, a social worker of radical bent, had headed the National Youth Administration . . . which was, and is now, more of a political worker than a business administrator.

There is strong suspicion he was nominated for REA administrator solely for his work in behalf of the fourth-term campaign last Summer and Fall.

This same suspicion obtained when President Roosevelt sent to the senate the nomination of Henry A. Wallace to be Secretary of Commerce. The president has the right to name his cabinet. But our quarrel with Wallace's nomination was the fact that at the time it was proposed the office of Secretary of Commerce had been given vast borrowing powers, controlling the RFC and many other fiscal agencies. When congress stripped the office of these extra powers, turning it back to the normal limits of the Secretary of Commerce, there was no further objection to Wallace—and he was confirmed.

No such amendment was possible in the case of the REA without destroying the agency itself.

The political rewardment of Aubrey Williams therefore will have to be made at the expense of some government bureau less vital than the agency which is bringing electric light and power to rural homes.

And a majority of Americans will concur with the senate's judgment.

* * *

BY JAMES THRASHER

A Needed Reminder

There is considerable good sense in Samuel Goldwyn's suggestion that the delegates to the United Nations Conference in San Francisco look at a motion picture record of the war before sitting down to work out the structure of a world security organization.

Two or even three days of such a review would be all to the good, it seems to us. But the films should be more complete than what we see in theaters, and free from the editing which softens the impact of war upon the sensibilities of the movie patron.

We also think that the film history of this war should be preserved as a possible weapon against militarism in the future, and particularly against any repetition of the sentimental pity for the poor, misunderstood Germans which cropped up some years after the last war.

No soldier or sailor who saw action in this war or any civilian who endured a bombing attack is likely to forget that experience quickly. But there are millions who never knew the actual experience of war, and a new generation will come along to whom the horrible reality of war will be only an imagination.

So it might do no harm to blow the dust from machinery of international peace with the vivid and frightful reminders of these war scenes in documentary films.

Judging from some of the war films we've seen lately the butcher must have been given a bum steer.

* * *

The midnight-closing pass word for heavy imbibers is "Hip, hip!"

* * *

A-shortage of shoes is predicted for 1946. There will be nothing new in the gals who buy for looks instead of comfort.

* * *

The U. S. Maritime Service training station at Sheepshead Bay, Brooklyn, had 60,000 graduates in two years.

Carrier Planes Blast Okinawa, Close to Japan

—Pacific

By FRANK TREMAINE

Guam, March 24 —(UP)—Tokyo reported that more than 1,000 American carrier planes attacked Okinawa island, enemy naval and air base 300 miles southwest of Japan, last evening and today.

Some 230 planes opened the assault late yesterday and other formations carried it into a second day with raids still continuing after eight hours of Japanese broadcasts said.

Okinawa island, 180 miles southwest of Okinawa and only 210 miles northeast of Formosa, also was attack today, Tokyo said.

The planes presumably came from the Fifth Fleet with Vice-Admiral Marc A. Mitscher's force of a dozen or more carriers fresh from wrecking at least 731 Japanese planes and damaging 17 warships in attacks on Kyushu and Japan's inland sea Tuesday and Monday in air battles to the south and Wednesday.

Tokyo, apparently seeking to justify the new raids in the light of earlier claims that Japanese planes had broken up the fleet with the sinking of 11 warships, said Okinawa and Miyako were being attacked by a "new enemy task force."

The new force, with two or three aircraft carriers as its nucleus, appeared off Okinawa yesterday, Tokyo said. Earlier the Japanese radio had reported Mitscher's force approaching the southern coast of Okinawa Wednesday night, however.

Today's raids began at 7 a.m. (Tokyo time), Japanese broadcasts said, and still were continuing at 3 p.m.

Okinawa lies midway between Japan proper and Formosa in the Ryukyu island chain and is an important link in the belt of air and sea bases protecting the southern approaches to the enemy homeland.

The task force which struck at the island earlier this week, Tokyo insisted, was "reported in flight" near Formosa, "with the greatest part of its carrier units smashed by our powerful attacks."

Capt. Etsuzo Kuihara, chief of the Japanese navy's press section, boasted in a Tokyo broadcast that if the American task force again should appear off Japan, "a deal them another crushing blow."

At the same time, however, he added that the force did not constitute America's "gotal fighting strength by any means. We are attacked, "heavy though it was, was not decisive," he said.

Admiral Chester W. Nimitz, commander of the Pacific fleets, has brought the number of enemy planes wrecked by the Fifth Fleet TF1 in a crowded week including 156 by the 535 listed originally as destroyed or damaged.

Revised figures, he said, showed that 201 Japanese planes had been shot down, 275 destroyed on the ground and 175 probably destroyed or damaged out on the fields.

Though he did not revise the total of 17 warships crippled in the inland sea, Nimitz said reconnaissance indicated the planes also had caused "extensive damage" to seven major air bases on Kyushu, southernmost of the Japanese home islands.

The bases were the Kanoya naval air station, one of the largest in southwest Japan; the Omura naval air station, one of the chief bases guarding the Sasebo naval base in western Kyushu; Oita, guarding the southern entrance to the inland sea; Saeki, on the east coast, and Miyazaki, Kagoshima and Mittagahara, all in southern Kyushu.

In the 13th century the Hague was merely a hunting lodge for the counts of Holland.

Red Cross Total Goes to $8,397

Hempstead county's Red Cross campaign went to a total of $8,397 today, new donors toward the $17,500 quota being as follows:

Previously reported $8,110.55

Rural —

McCaskill

Mr. Mrs. Bert Scott 10.00

Mr. & Mrs. Chester McCaskill 10.00

Mrs. Mrs. J. O. Harris 10.00

Mrs. Mrs. J. A. Sevedge 5.00

Glen Eley 5.00

Mrs. Mrs. J. S. Moses 5.00

Mrs. Marshall Scott 5.00

Mrs. Mrs. James Rhodes 5.00

Mrs. Cecil Spicer 1.00

Albert Rowland 2.00

Mr. Mrs. W. D. Hood 1.00

Edward Rinehart 1.00

Miss Ollie Gunn 1.00

G. F. Lively 1.00

Mr. & Mrs. Boyce Hamilton 2.00

Mont Wardlow 1.00

B. E. Hodges 1.00

Mr. & Mrs. C. A. Hamilton 2.00

Mrs. Pierce Brandon 2.50

Mrs. Edgar Keeton 1.00

Mrs. Bob Rowland 1.00

Mr., Mrs. Brice Beene 2.00

Mrs. M. O. Gerhson 1.00

Mrs. W. N. Long 2.00

D. C. White 1.00

Fred Crosier (col) 1.00

Alden Pickett 1.00

Mrs. R. D. Shuffield 1.00

Mrs. Dora Wortham 1.00

D. B. McCaskill 1.00

P. M. Rhodes 1.00

W. W. Rodgers 2.00

Mrs. J. J. Mitchell 2.00

Ralph Gibson 1.00

T. W. Brandon 1.00

Melvin Askew 1.00

L. B. Rhodes 1.00

A. J. Rhodes 1.00

Mr., Mrs. Bert Scott, Jr. 5.00

L. H. Jackson .50

Lee Johnson (col) .50

Lake Jones (col) .50

Claude Rowland .50

Ezra Hicks .50

Mrs. Still .50

Mr., Mrs. C. V. Washburn 2.00

Donation 1.00

Mrs. Hannie Keeton 1.00 107.00

City District

A. B. McCain 5.00

A. A. Brown 5.00

A. W. Cox 5.00

W. W. Compton 5.00

C. P. Nunn 5.00

C. B. Moore, Jr. 5.00

B. C. Hollis 5.00

Lucinda Daniels (col) 1.00

J. W. Cunningham 5.00

P. A. Raley 5.00

O. O. Guynn 5.00

M. H. Blanton 5.00

D. B. Hamilton 5.00

R. S. Blackwell 5.00

W. T. Sipes 5.00

W. R. Cooper 2.00

D. O. Weeks 1.00

H. Perry 1.00

A. S. Trout 1.00

J. B. Dozier 2.00

J. A. Boyette 2.00

O. A. Smith 3.00

J. L. McCuller .25

W. E. Felton .25

Business District

I. C. Tucker 4.00

J. L. Harper 5.00

J. L. Harper 2.00

J. D. Bulloch 3.00 100.50

Employees

(Courthouse Station)

H. A. Watterson 5.00

(Continued on Page Two)

Army Defends Its Sending of Young Men into Combat After 17 Weeks of Basic Training

(Editor's Note: The army has been criticized for sending young soldiers into combat as replacements a few months after induction. In view of this criticism, the War Department invited a group of newspaper men to visit two of its replacement centers. The following is by Reuel S. Moore, AP correspondent who visited a field artillery training center at Fort Bragg, N. C.)

By REUEL S. MOORE

Fort Bragg, N. C., March 23 — (UP)— Take it from Maj. Gen. Donald C. Cubbison, after 17 weeks of basic training here, the boys "know they are good."

Cubbison is commanding general of this field artillery replacement training center. He told visiting newspaper men that the 17 weeks allotted for basic training here is adequate.

"We get plenty of letters from former trainees and officers overseas," he said, "testifying that the boys know their stuff."

Cubbison has trained scores of thousands of field artillery replacements in the past three years. He also trained the famous First Infantry Division before it went into combat overseas.

The boys trained here are assigned as replacements to veteran units in the field. They do not go into combat in untested groups.

It used to be different. Until about a year ago, the basic training period was 13 weeks. Therefore most trainees were assigned to units in the European theater while they were being trained.

Now, however, replacements join experienced outfits and those predecessors were taught in unit training in this country. Army men believe the new way is the better.

"The replacements get about 60 hours of training here weekly," Cubbison said. "The average inductee is not in too good physical shape. The fat ones take off weight

(Continued on Page Two)

Late Lt. Hervey's Decorations Are Received by Wife

Mrs. Opal G. Hervey today received from the War Department the Air Medal and four Oak-Leaf Clusters posthumously awarded her husband, 1st Lt. Abner D. Hervey, Liberator bomber pilot killed in air combat over Italy.

She had previously received Lt. Hervey's Presidential Citation and Purple Heart. The War Department communique announcing they were:

"For meritorious achievement in aerial flight while participating in sustained operational activities against the enemy from 13 January to 18 January 1944, 19 January to 29 January 1944, 31 January to 22 February 1944, 24 January to 25 March 1944, and 29 March to 17 April 1944.

Correspondent Crosses Rhine With Patton

(Editor's Note: Edward D. Ball of the Associated Press, who has covered the U.S. Third Army since its breakout from the Normandy beachhead last July, was the only correspondent to make the night crossing of the Rhine with Lt. Gen. George S. Patton's troops. For the first 5 hours of the operation he was the only correspondent on the scene. This is his dramatic story).

By EDWARD D. BALL

With the U. S. Third Army Across the Rhine, March 24 — (AP) — The Third Army rapidly expanded today the bridgehead which it established yesterday after crossing the stream in one of the boldest operations of the European war.

Lt. Gen. George S. Patton's troops continued to pour across the Rhine, some by the bridges and by ferry, against diminishing opposition.

There was no confirmation from Moscow of the opening of a new Rhine attack, but the Soviet high command announced that the 2nd Byelorussian Army of Marshal Rokossovsky and the 1st Byelorussian Army of Marshal Zhukov had captured Gollnow, 10 miles west of the Oder and 31 miles from Berlin, said radio dispatches from the Reich, and broke into Klessin, eight miles south of Gollnow and 34 miles from Berlin.

The Germans, who claim still to hold a small part of the old city of Gollnow just south of the Warthe river and east of the Oder despite official Soviet announcements of the capture of the ancient fortress, said: "The battle for Kustrin has reached its climax. The Red Army is throwing in all its material, regardless of losses of men and tanks."

"This present offensive must be taken in connection with the long-planned Russian attack on Berlin," declared a DNB broadcast from Berlin.

"Kustrin has been cut off from all communications to the west for some time. These have, however, been reestablished. The fortress still is in German hands. Furious fighting continues in that area."